

1677 Pam.
Misc.

The Missionary Meeting of the College Association.

BY ROBERT P. WILDER.

ONE of the three objects of each College Young Men's Christian Association should be, in the words of the Constitution, "To lead Christian students to discharge their responsibility for the evangelization of India." The greater part of the work of proclaiming the Gospel to the unreached millions of this land must be done by Indian Christians. Students are to be leaders. So the Christian students of India are under obligation to know the needs of the unevangelized and to lead in the work of carrying the news of salvation to them. It was Dean Vaughan who said, "Know and you will feel. Know and you will pray. Know and you will help." To promote a knowledge of missions, each Association should have a missionary meeting.

But not only for the sake of the unsaved millions does each Association need to be interested in the work of missions, but also for its own sake. Its life depends upon its loyalty to Christ. Obedience is the proof of its love, for He said, "If ye love Me, ye will keep My commandments." His last command was the missionary command, and 'the Holy Ghost hath been given to them that obey Him.'

I. The Purpose of the Meeting :

1. To give the Christian students a world vision by informing them concerning the world's need.

2. To arouse conviction as to what the Christian students' present and future relation to missionary work should be.

3. To enable students to ascertain God's plan for their lives.

4. To promote intelligent and earnest prayer for missions.

5. To promote systematic and proportionate giving to missions.

6. To demonstrate the inadequacy of ethnic religions and the adequacy of Jesus Christ to save men. This should be an underlying aim in every meeting.

II. *Frequency*.—Once each month, one of the weekly devotional meetings should be made a missionary meeting.

III. Attendance :

1. Who should attend this meeting? In addition to the Active and Associate members, it would be well to admit a few carefully selected non-Christian students who are not connected with the Association. Professors and Masters should also be invited to attend.

2. Why should they attend? In order that the Association membership may become interested in the work of missions, also that non-Christian students may be converted as a result of their attending such meetings. In other lands it has been found that unconverted students do not steel themselves

against the truth in missionary meetings as they do in evangelistic services. Why should India be an exception to this rule? If the suggested course upon "The Religions of India" be followed, the meetings should prove helpful to non-Christians as well as to Christians.

3. How to secure a good attendance. By prayer, personal invitation, proper announcements sufficiently in advance on notice boards and in students' hostels; also by having such a strong and attractive programme that men will desire to attend the meetings. If possible, the first missionary meetings of the academic year should be addressed by an able speaker from another city. Local talent should be employed afterwards.

IV. Preparation for the Meetings :

1. The Missionary Committee should carefully outline in advance a scheme of topics so that there may be continuity and progression, and no repetition in the treatment.

2. The Committee should select and secure the literature and maps needed for a proper treatment of the topics.

3. The members of the Committee should often meet to pray for the success of the meetings.

4. The Committee should select and confer with the leaders and participants.

V. Leader and Participants :

1. *The Leader.*—He should be selected with great care, since he is to the success of the meeting what the keystone is to the

arch which it holds together. It is better to have the same leader for several meetings than to put incompetent men into the chair merely for the sake of securing a new leader for each meeting. The Missionary Committee should select and notify the leader a month in advance, and should remind him again of his duties a fortnight before the meeting is held, so as to ensure careful preparation upon his part.

2. *The Participants.*—These should be selected and notified by the Missionary Committee and leader at least two weeks in advance. The number of participants depends upon the subject to be treated. Where the topic will permit of division, it is well to divide among several. For example "The History of Christianity in India" can be divided into the History of the Syrian Church, the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant Church. The leader and participants should have the following qualifications: Spiritual mindedness, heart interest in the work of the world's evangelization, ability to inspire as well as to inform, and men who both can and will make careful preparation.

VI. *Conduct of the Meeting.*—The success of the meeting depends largely upon beginning and closing punctually. Time should be allowed in each meeting for devotional exercises and the offering. Participants should be kept within their time limits. In some meetings it may be well to allow an opportunity for questions, but the leader should not permit irrelevant questions or discussions, since they will dissipate the good impressions made by the addresses. At the close of the meeting, it will be well to call attention to the missionary library and to disseminate missionary literature.

VII. *Topics for the Meetings*.—These should be determined by the Missionary Committee a year in advance; but the special needs of the College or some unforeseen opportunity may make it advisable to change the programme by introducing another topic occasionally. Lists of topics for Missionary Meetings can be found in the following places :

1. In the pamphlet entitled "The Inter-Collegiate Young Men's Christian Association of India and Ceylon," pages 9-10.

2. In the "Report of the Conference of the World's Student Christian Federation," 1898, page 21.

3. The Student Volunteer Movement of India and Ceylon has asked the writer of this paper to prepare a course upon "The Religions of India" suitable for Missionary Meetings; also to suggest books of reference to enable the students to make proper preparation. Accordingly he has prepared the following list of topics and bibliography. Each month one topic should be treated. The last topic requires at least two meetings :—

TOPIC I.

VEDIC RELIGION.

(Suggested Reading.)

Junior Division.

Murray Mitchell's Hindu Religion. $\frac{1}{2}$ Anna.

Who Wrote the Vedas? $\frac{1}{4}$ Anna.

Vedic India. 1 Anna.

Senior Division.

An Account of the Vedas. $4\frac{1}{2}$ As.

Banerjea's Christianity and Hinduism. $\frac{1}{2}$ An.

TOPIC II.

PHILOSOPHIC HINDUISM.

Junior Division.

- Flint's Hindu Pantheism. $\frac{1}{2}$ Anna.
 Day's Vedantism. $\frac{1}{2}$ Anna.
 The Bhagavad Gítá (Short Paper). $\frac{1}{4}$ Anna.
 Caldwell on Krishna. $\frac{3}{4}$ Anna.

Senior Division.

- Philosophic Hinduism. $2\frac{1}{2}$ As.
 The Bhagavad Gítá. 3 As.
 Krishna as described in the Puránas and
 Bhagavad Gítá. $2\frac{1}{2}$ As.
 Swami Vivekananda on Hinduism. 3 As.

TOPIC III.

BUDDHISM AND JAINISM.

Junior Division.

- Buddha and his Religion. 1 Anna.

Senior Division.

- Burma and the Burmese (Fruits of Buddhism.) $2\frac{1}{2}$ As.
 Paper on Jainism. (To be written.)

TOPIC IV.

MUHAMMADANISM AND ITS FRUITS.

Junior Division.

- Short Papers for Muslims. $\frac{1}{2}$ Anna.
 Witness of the Koran. $\frac{1}{4}$ Anna.
 The Koran Examined. $\frac{1}{2}$ Anna.
 The Prophet of Arabia. $\frac{1}{2}$ Anna.
 The Purdah ; or Seclusion of Indian Women.
 $\frac{1}{4}$ Anna.

Senior Division.

- Tracts for Muhammadans. 3 As.
 Rise and Decline of Islam. 1 Anna.
 Lands of Islam. $1\frac{1}{2}$ As.
 Arabia and its Prophet. $2\frac{1}{2}$ As.

TOPIC V.

POPULAR HINDUISM.

Junior Division.

- Idols of the Earth. 1 Anna.
 Hooper's Transmigration. 1 Anna.
 Demon Worship in Ceylon. $\frac{1}{2}$ Anna.

Senior Division.

- Popular Hinduism. $2\frac{1}{2}$ As.
 The Temple of Jagannath. $1\frac{1}{2}$ As.
 The Vishnu Puranā (abridged). 3 As.

TOPIC VI.

HINDU THEISM AND NEO-HINDUISM.

Junior Division.

- Day on Brahmoism. $\frac{1}{2}$ Anna.
 Hinduism and Christianity, by Dr. Jones.
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ As.

Senior Division.

- The Bramha Samaj. 3 As.
 Supposed and Real Doctrines of Hinduism.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ Anna.
 Forman's Arya Samaj. (Out of print.)
 For Western India. The Parsis and their
 Religion. (To be prepared.)
 For the Punjab. Paper on Sikhism. (To be
 prepared.)

TOPIC VII.

FRUITS OF HINDUISM.

1. Intellectual. 2. Physical. 3. Moral. 4. Spiritual.

Junior Division.

- Causes of Indian Poverty. $\frac{1}{4}$ Anna.
 Caste : its Origin and Effects. $\frac{1}{4}$ Anna.
 Early Marriage : its Evils. $\frac{1}{4}$ Anna.
 The Fruits of Hinduism. $\frac{1}{4}$ Anna.

Senior Division.

- Christianity and Hinduism Compared. 2 As.
 India Hindu and India Christian. 2 As.
 Religious Ideals of the East and the West
 (Dr. Jones). $\frac{1}{2}$ An.
 The Women of India and what can be Done
 for Them. $4\frac{1}{2}$ As.

TOPIC VIII.

CHRISTIANITY IN INDIA.

1. Syrian. 2. Roman Catholic. 3. Protestant.

Junior Division.

- The History of Christianity in India. 5 As.

Senior Division.

- Kellett's Christ the Fulfilment of Hinduism.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ Anna.
 Fisher's Christian Religion. 1 Anna.
 Lives of Indian Christians. 8 As. (stiff cover).

The above-mentioned literature is on sale at the Depôts of the Christian Literature Society of India, Madras, Calcutta, Allahabad, Lahore, Bombay and Colombo.

The library of 23 pamphlets for the Junior Division costs only 14 annas. The 23 books

and pamphlets for the Senior Division can be obtained for three rupees. If sent to out-stations, carriage must be added. The writer of this paper is indebted for this large discount of 25 per cent. and for help in preparing this list of books and pamphlets to J. Murdoch, Esq., LL.D. Every Association should purchase the Junior Division Library and the larger Associations should order both libraries. Since it is desired to introduce this course upon "The Religions of India" into *every* College Association, the following premiums are offered:—To any Association ordering Library No. 1 for the Junior Division, *two* books of the Moody Colportage Library will we sent. To any Association purchasing Library No. 2 for the Senior Division, *seven* books of the Moody Colportage Library will be sent. All orders for the Colportage Library books must go to B. R. Barber, Esq., 86, College Street, Calcutta, and carriage must be added.

For those desiring to do advanced work in connection with this course upon "The Religions of India," the following Library No. 3 is suggested:—

- (1) The Cross in the Land of the Trident (H. P. Beach), 1895.
- (2) Parsi, Jaina, and Sikh (Douglas M. Thornton), 1898.
- (3) The Conversion of India (Smith), 1893.
- (4) The Religions of India (Barth), 1882.
- (5) The Great Indian Religions (Bettany), 1892.
- (6) Brief History of Indian Peoples (Hunter), 1892.
- (7) India and Malasia (Thoburn), 1893.
- (8) Hindu Mythology (Wilkins), 1882.
- (9) Brahmanism and Hinduism (Williams), 1891.

- (10) Indika (Hurst), 1891.
- (11) India (Strachey), 1894.
- (12) England's Mission to India (Barry), 1895.
- (13) Sale's Translation of the Koran.
- (14) Werne and Tisdall's Religion of the Crescent.

4. For those who desire a biographical course, the following topics are suggested:—Japan and Neesima; Educational Missions and Dr. Duff; China and Morrison; Africa and Livingstone; Lessons from the Life of Carey; Lessons from the Life of Mackay; Lessons from the Life of Wm. C. Burns, and Lessons from the Life of Bishop Crowther. The lives of these men can be obtained from the Christian Literature Society at one anna each.

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